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My name is Amy Ryder, I'm the Cleveland area director with Ohio Citizen Action. Ohio Citizen Action is the State's largest citizens organization with a 150,000 members Statewide. We've spent the last 25 years campaigning on environmental and consumer issues. Most of that time has been spent opposing nuclear power and the astronomical electrical rates nuclear power has brought Northern Ohio rate payers. The Ohio citizen action does all of it's public education through a door to door canvas and a telephone canvas. Back in the fall of 1997 we campaigned door to door across Northern Ohio on the issue of transporting spent nuclear fuel to Yucca Mountain. And what we found was overwhelming support against the Department of Energy's plan to hurl this waste on to our highways and railroads without the knowledge or technology of how to transport it or store it safely.

1 Over 15 thousand Ohioans signed petitions opposing this plan, over 4,000 took the time to write their member of Congress urging them to stop the plan. [The Department of Energy has done a poor job of communicating the progression of this crucial project to those that it will impact the most, which are the citizens.

It's troublesome to note that an agency which is charged with determining how to transport and store such a deadly waste is incapable of communicating to the public if or how it can do it. This is a classic right to know issue and unfortunately the department has violated that right.]

2 [Under the proposed plan, an average of one shipment of high-level radioactive waste would travel through the State of Ohio every two days for 25 years. It's an inevitable fact that accidents will happen. No matter how many videos the Department shows to Congress or the media about the alleged cask testing, neither the State of Ohio nor local governments are
3 prepared to deal with a radioactive accident of this magnitude.] [We recognize that the waste has to be moved at some point. Frankly, it's one of the reasons that our organization has opposed nuclear power from the beginning. However, the Department of Energy should not risk the lives of citizens without a clear and compelling reason. And the only reason that exists is that there is a place somewhere where this waste can be stored for the next 200,000 years where it no longer poses a threat to human health or to the environment. And so far the Department has failed to demonstrate the merits of their plan.

I urge the Department of Energy to prolong the plan to move spent nuclear fuel until they can determine, without a doubt that it can be transported safely, stored safely, and provide the states and local governments with plenty of money and training to prepare for the likelihood of an accident.] Thank you.